

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 070028

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

FOL RPT NATO 1796 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO BONN LONDON
MBFR VIENNA USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR 29 MAR 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T NATO 1796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: MARCH 29 SPC DISCUSSION ON TABLING NATIONAL
MANPOWER DATA

REF: (A) MBFR VIENNA 145 (DTG 231747Z MAR 77),
(B) STATE 69129 (DTG 290155Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: DURING MARCH 29 SPC DISCUSSION FRG REP
REPORTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES CANNOT AT PRESENT
AGREE TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA IN VIENNA
(REF A). ITALIAN, BELGIAN AND TURKISH REPS
SUPPORTED FRG POSITION. UK REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES
FAVOR THE MOVE, PROVIDED NATO CAN DEVISE A SUITABLE
DISCLAIMER TO PROTECT THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE
COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING. US REP DREW FULLY ON
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REF B. DAKISH AND DUTCH REPS HAD NOT INSTRUCTIONS,
BUT PERSONALLY THOUGHT THEIR AUTHORITIES WOULD
AGREE WITH UK. CANADIAN REP THOUGHT OTTAWA
WOULD WANT TO DEFER ITS DECISION IN ORDER TO
ASSESS THE RESULTS OF CURRENT US-SOVIET TALKS
AFTER RECEIVING THE NAC REPORT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
HARTMAN AND GELB ON APRIL 4. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MARCH 29 SPC DISCUSSION, FRG REP (CITRON) REPORTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES CANNOT AT PRESENT AGREE TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA IN VIENNA (REF A). HE SAID FRG CONCERNS THAT THIS STEP MIGHT UNDERMINE THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING ARE WELL KNOWN. THI CONCERN WAS REINFORCED BY THE INSISTENCE WITH WHICH THE EAST HAS URGED AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL RMANPOWER DATA: THE FRG GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONVINCED BY MARCH 22 EASTERN CISCLAIMERS THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE (PARA 5, REF A). FRG REP ALSO SAID HIS AUTHORITIES THINK THE RESULTS OF AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA WILL ONLY BE LIMITED, IN SO FAR AS IT MIGHT REVEAL THE SOURCE OF THE DISCREPANCIES IN EASTERN FIGURES. THEY WOULD FAVOR AN EXPLORATION OF OTHER WAYS IN WHICH NATO MIGHT CONTINUE THE DATA DISCUSSION, SHORT OF TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA.

2. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES SHARE THE CONCERNS OF THE FRG REGARDING POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF THE COLLECTIVITY. HE WAS NOT PERSUADED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA TO CHALLENGE THE EAST; HE THOUGHT THE WEST COULD BETTER CHALLENGE THE EAST BY TABLING NATO HOLDINGS ON UPDATED RED DATA. IN ANY EVENT,
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ITALY BELIEVES IT IS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER THIS ADDITIONAL STEP ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER OFFERING TO EXCHANGE DATA ON US AND USSR FORCES.

3. BELGIAN REP (CROLLEN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ALSO AGREE WITH THE FRG. WHILE THEY DO NOT INSIST THAT TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA WILL AUTOMATICALLY UNDERMINE THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING, THEY DO BELIEVE THE ALLIES MUST EXPLORE THE CONCEPT CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBLE LINKAGE. BELGIUM ALSO MISTRUSTS THE EASTERN DISCLAIMER OF PREJUDICE AGAINST THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) ASKED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) REP WHETHER AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA WOULD ACTUALLY HELP TO CLARIFY THE EXISTING DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE EASTERN-DECLARED

DATA AND NATO INTELLIGENCE HOLDINGS.

MC REP (SMITH) THOUGHT ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE VALUE IN DETERMINING THE EASTERN FIGURE FOR SOVIET FORCES, BUT PROBABLY LESS VALUE IN LEARNING THE FIGURES FOR NSWP FORCES. HE REMINDED THE SPC THAT THE MBFR WORKING GROUP HAD ALREADY DETERMINED THERE WOULD BE NO MILITARY-TECHNICAL DISADVANTAGE IN SUCH AN EXCHANGE (AC/276-D'75)9, SEPTEMBER 12, 1975).

5. UK REP (JANVRIN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FAVOR AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA PROVIDED THE ALLIES CAN DEVISE A SUITABLE DISCLAIMER TO PROTECT THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING. THE UK STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE:

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1) IT SEEMS NECESSARY FOR TACTICAL REASONS AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO BACK AWAY FROM A DISCUSSION OF DATA;
2) AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA MAY ENABLE THE WEST TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF THE DISCREPANCY IN THE EASTERN FIGURES; AND
3) SUCH AN EXCHANGE WILL NOT INEVITABLY UNDERMINE THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY SINCE THE REAL GUARANTEE FOR THAT POSITION LIES IN ALLIED SOLIDARITY; HOWEVER, THE UK BELIEVES THE SPC WILL HAVE TO EXPLORE A SUITABLE DISCLAIMER AT LENGTH.

THE UK ALSO AGREED THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE EAST MIGHT PUBLICIZE THE FAILURE OF THE WEST TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA AND THEREFORE BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO AGREE TO THIS STEP BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT ROUND.

6. US REP (PREEZ) DREW ON GUIDANCE IN REF B AND AGREED WITH UK REP THAT TABLING NATIONAL FIGURES FOR DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT NECESSARILY PREJUDICE THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVE MBFR OBLIGATIONS.

7. TURKISH REP (GUR) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES SUPPORT THE GERMAN/BELGIAN/ITALIAN POSITION. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT AGREEING WITH THE EAST ON THIS POINT WILL LEAD TO A GRADUAL EROSION OF THE WESTERN POSITION.

8. NETHERLANDS AND DANISH REPS BOTH SAID THEIR INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MARCH 29 MEETING WERE TO LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER DELEGATIONS; HOWEVER, BOTH ALSO THOUGHT PERSONALLY THAT THEIR SECRET

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AUTHORITIES WOULD EVENTUALLY SUPPORT THE UK POSITION.

9. CANADIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) SAID OTTAWA IS TRADITIONALLY POSITIVE ON ALL ASPECTS OF DATA DISCUSSIONS, BUT THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS ON THIS THE DIFFICULT MATTER OF TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA. HE SUSPECTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD WANT TO DIGEST THE REPORT OF THE CURRENT US-USSR

TALKS IN MOSCOW THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARIES HARTMAN AND GELB WILL GIVE TO THE COUNCIL ON APRIL 4, BEFORE TAKING A FINAL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

10. SPC WILL MEET AGAIN ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 4.

11. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE PER PARA 3, REF B.STRAUSZ-HUPE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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